



**Date: October 25, 2005**

**To: Members of the Seattle City Council**

**From: Ron LaFayette, Chair, and Michelle Rupp, Vice-Chair, on Behalf of the Northgate Stakeholders Group**

**Subject: Northgate Stakeholders Support for Acquiring the Park & Ride Lot at NE 112<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE for a Future Park**

At the October 18, 2005 meeting of the Northgate Stakeholders Group, the Stakeholders voted to send a memorandum to you in support of allocating funds in the City's 2006 budget to acquire the Park & Ride lot at NE 112<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE from King County for a future park. As Chair of the Stakeholders, it is my pleasure to carry out the Group's wishes.

In our discussions, we noted that both Mayor Greg Nickels and King County Executive Ron Sims spoke at a press briefing on September 21 at Northgate Mall of their agreement to have King County sell the property to the City. Both acknowledged that the sale would be subject to approval by the Seattle City Council and the King County Council.

The Seattle City Council charged us with advising on the Northgate Open Space and Pedestrian Plan and this plan, as well as the 1993 Northgate Area Comprehensive Plan, recommends this site become a future park. The Northgate Stakeholders have given advice on several key Northgate projects and our positions have consistently supported changing the Northgate landscape from an auto-oriented sea of asphalt to a pedestrian-oriented urban center with more greenery, open spaces, pedestrian pathways, good urban design, and public art.

The Northgate Community has had a longstanding desire to turn this parking lot into a park. This site is north of Northgate Way in the vicinity of several senior centers. Last week we heard news of major new housing proposals adjacent to this site. These are important reasons to turn this parking lot into a park.

In discussing the opportunity to acquire the lot for a future park, the Stakeholders emphasized the need for more open space in light of the increased density that will occur in the Northgate area in the coming years. We also acknowledged that the transition from a Park & Ride lot to a park cannot and should not occur before the parking spaces that will be displaced by this transaction have been replaced.

We hope that you will provide the necessary funding for the City to acquire this property. It will be a valuable resource to the entire community as Northgate is redeveloped into a vital urban center. Thank you for your consideration.

**Cc: Northgate Stakeholders Group; Mayor Greg Nickels**